

outer periphery surface thereof with a sealing member extending in a circumferential direction of the end plate so as to be abutted against the inner surface of the sleeve; hinges and fasteners releasibly hooked between said sleeve members to integrally connect said sleeve members to each other through said abutting joint surfaces arranged opposite to each other; said end plates each being formed of rubber plastic material with a slit in a manner to extend from said cable guide hole to a portion of said end plate in proximity to an outer periphery of said end plate so as to permit a wall of said end plate to open by cutting along said slit; said cable guide hole being provided thereon with a thin-wall cap capable of being removed by cutting and said slit being detachably fitted therein with a rigidity holding member; and a gasket including an adhesive interposed between said outer periphery of said end plate and an inner surface of said sleeve so as to cover an outer end of said slit, said gasket arranged on the outer periphery surface of the end plate by adhesion while being conformed to the outer periphery of the end plate and the sealing member.

2. (Amended) A closure for cable connection as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of said end plates is removably fitted therein with at least one opening prevention connection member which extends over both sides of said slit; and said at least one of said end plates is removably fitted therein with a second rigidity holding member in a manner to be positioned at a central portion thereof between the cable guide holes and abutted against an end wall of said sleeve.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111 in response to the outstanding Official Action dated March 23, 1999, the shortened statutory period having expired on June 23, 1999. Applicants submit herewith a Three